two instalments to Gujarat Vishwakosh Trust, Ahmedabad for the publication of Gujarati Vishwakosh (Vols. V & VI) in Gujarati language during the financial years 1993-94 and 1995-96 under the scheme of financial assistance for publication and purchase of books in Indian languages and in English.

(c) The Government have formulated the following schemes including schemes to maintain autonomous bodies/subordinate offices under the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the purpose of development of Hindi & other Indian languages including Gujarati :-

(i) Financial assistance to voluntary organisation for promotion of Hindi.

(ii) Appointment and Training of Hindi teachers in Non-Hindi speaking States/UTs.

(iii) Financial assistance for publication/ purchase of books in Indian languages and in English

(iv) Financial assistance to voluntary organisations for selected promotional activities relating to Indian languages (other than Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu and Sindhi).

(v) Scheme of production of University level books in Hindi and in regional languages.

(vi) Appointment and Training of Modern Indian Language teachers in Hindi speaking States/ UTs.

(vii) Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi, a subordinate office is engaged in the development of Hindi as link language though correspondence courses and production of bi-lingual and trilingual dictionaries etc.

(viii) Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, New Delhi, a subordinate office is engaged in the evolution of Scientific and technical terminology in Hindi and regional languages.

(ix) Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, an autonomous organisation is engaged in importing teacher's training for in-service teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs etc.

(x) Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, a subordinate office is engaged in developmental programmes for Indian languages.

(xi) The National Book Trust, India, an autonomous organisation is stepping up its publication programme in Gujarati and Hindi for the development of these languages in Gujarat.

[English]

Bye-Passes in Kerala

2778. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several proposals for bye-passes are pending in connection with National Highway No. 49 from Cochin to Madurai in Cochin-Neridmangalam sector, give details thereof;

(b) the stage of fixation of alignment of this highway in the sector running through Kerala;

(c) the cause of delay in finalising alignment and undertaking works of bye-passes: and

(d) the developments planned in the above sector?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) . (a) No, Sir

(b) The alignment proposal of the National Highway-49 in Kerala is yet to be submitted by the State P.W.D

(c) The delay in finalisation of alignment is mainly due to hilly terrains

(d) The development of NH-49 in Kerala would be considered after finalisation of the alignment.

[Translation]

Passport offices in Delhi

2779. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of existing passport offices in the National Capital Region of Delhi;

(b) the number of passports issued by these offices during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the average time taken by these offices in issuing passports;

(d) the number of applications pending for passports in these offices for more than six months; and

(e) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to dispose of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) At present, there is one Passport Office in the National Capital Region of Delhi viz. Regional Passport Office, Delhi. Two more are in the process of being established, respectively in Ghaziabad and Gurgaon.

(b) The number of passports issued by RPO, Delhi during the last three years is as follows :

Year	1993	1994	1995
No. of Passports Issued	128186	108249	106807

(c) The average time taken for issuing passports by this office is approximately four weeks after receipt of a complete application.

(d) The number of cases pending for issue of passports for more than six months in this office is 1594.

(e) Cases in this category are pending owing to questions regarding the eligibility of the applicant for issue of passport, and necessary investigations are in progress.

[English]

Upgradation of Medical College

2780. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration for the upgradation/modernisation of diagnostic services at the Tirumala Devashom (T.D.) Medical College at Alapuzha in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with estimated costs thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However a proposal for the setting up of an Institute of Imageoiogy and Laboratory Services at Medical College, Alapuzha was received in Planning Commission from the Govt. of Kerala for special Central assistance. The State Government was advised to put up a comprehensive proposal as a part of the 9th Plan.

Upgradation State Highways in A.P.

2781. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted proposals covering a length of 4812 Kms. to the Union Ministry vide letter No.1612/R11(2) 91-3 dt. 24.2.1992 for upgradation of State Highways to National Highways;

(b) if so, whether out of these proposals the Union Government have sanctioned State Highways from Kurnool to Chitoor to a length of 362 Kms as National Highway No. 18 in January 1993;

(c) if so, the fate of other proposals;

(d) to what extent the works of the approved highways have been completed;

(e) the time by which all proposals will be accepted; and

(f) the time by which works on these projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir.

(c) to (f). Due to paucity of funds it will be difficult to declare any more roads as National Highway. original works conting Rs.720 lakhs have been sanctioned and are in different stages of progress.

Four Laning of N.H.47

2782. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the two lane traffic of National Highway-47 to 4 lane traffic from Trivandrum to Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). There is no provision in the Eighth Five Year Plan for 4 laning from Trivandrum to Sherthalai on NH-47, except from Aroor to Sherthalai (around Ernakulam) for which the work is in progress.

Luggage per Haj Pilgrim

2783. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any restriction on the maximum luggage per Haj pilgrim during Haj journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether extra charges are lavied for extra luggage; and

(d) if so, the total amount collected for extra luggage during the last three years and how the said total collection has been utilised-whether paid to the airways or utilized by the Haj Committee, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Pilgrims going for Haj under arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee have been allowed to carry 35 kgs. of personal baggage on their outward journey to Saudi Arabia and 45 kgs. including provision for Zam Zam (Holy water). on their return journey to India.

(c) As per accepted norms of international flights, excess baggage charges are levied beyond the permissible baggage allowance. This generally happens on Pilgrim's return flights when they bring more luggage.

(d) Excess baggage collection for Haj 1994, 1995 and 1996 was Rs.24,93,330/-, Rs.34,14,307/- and Rs. 18,56,726/- respectively. Collection of excess baggage charges is made by Air India on behalf of the Central Haj Committee and the amounts collected are settled during the reconciliation of accounts between Air India and Central Haj Committee every year.